

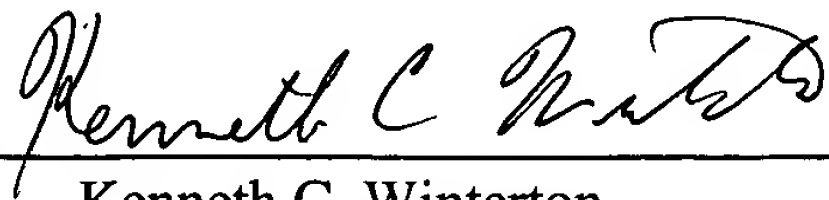
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this Amendment and Response, claims 1-14 were pending in the present application. Through this Amendment and Response, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 5 and 13, and canceled Claim 4. Accordingly, following the entry of the present Amendment, Claims 1-3, and 5-14 will be pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner indicates in the Office Action that Claims 4-6, 8, 10, and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable Claim 4. Applicants have canceled Claim 4, and amended Claims 5 and 13 to depend from Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Claims 2-3 and 5-14, which depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1 are also in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: March 10, 2004
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